

nuove dell' Isola Maurizie, T. Canefri, 1877.—Museum Paulucianum, Etudes Malacologiques, T. Canefri, 1879, from Mr. Brazier.

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PAPERS READ.

REMARKS ON SOME RECENTLY REDESCRIBED AUSTRALIAN SHELLS.

BY J. BRAZIER, C.M.Z.S., &c.

1. *ALEXIA MERIDIONALIS*.

1877.—*Auricula (Alexia) meridionalis*, Brazier, Proc. Linn. Soc., New South Wales, Vol. II., p. 26.

1878.—*Alexia meridionalis*, Angas, (Brazier, MSS.) Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 869.

*Hab.* Port Adelaide Creek, South Australia.

This species was fully described by me at the time I received it in 1877 from Mr. Bednall, therefore I never gave it a MS. name.

2. *MUREX (PTERONOTUS) BEDNALLI*.

1877.—*Murex (Pteronotus) Bednalli*, Brazier, Proc. Linn. Soc., New South Wales, Vol. II., p. 6.

1880.—Tryon, Manual of Conchology, Vol. II., p. 262.

1880.—*Murex (Pteronotus) bednalli*, Angas, Proc. Zool., p. 418, pl. xl., fig. 2.

*Hab.* Port Darwin, North Coast of Australia.

Mr. Angas remarks on this species "discovered by Mr. Bednall and provisionally named by Mr. Brazier, which I have great pleasure in figuring in the Society's Proceedings."

What Mr. Angas means by saying that this species was provisionally named by me I am at a loss to conjecture. The species was named by me *Bednalli*, and fully described in the Proceedings of this Society on the 29th January, 1877, and Mr. Angas has the coolness to redescribe it without acknowledgement, in the

Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, on the 4th of May, 1880.

### 3. VOLUTA BEDNALLI.

1878.—*Voluta Bednalli*, Brazier, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, Vol. III., p. 81, pl. viii., fig. 3.

1880.—*Voluta (Aulica) bednalli*, Angas. Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 418, pl. xl., fig. 1.

*Hab.* Port Darwin, North Coast of Australia.

A very good uncoloured figure was given of this species when first described by me.

Mr. Angas, remarks on this species, "Mr. Brazier, of Sydney has already bestowed on this beautiful shell the name of its discoverer, Mr. W. T. Bednall; and I have much pleasure in retaining that name, and figuring it in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London." I do not think that Mr. Angas had any option in the matter of retaining the name, when I had described, figured, and named it in the published Proceedings of this Society two years previously.

### ON A NEW SPECIES OF *Regalæcus*, FROM PORT JACKSON.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c.

REGALÆCUS JACKSONENSIS, *sp. nov.*

[Plate XX.]

The first five to seven spines of the dorsal fin detached, slender, very small and hair-like; they begin opposite the upper angle of the gill-cover; to opposite the vent are 75 rays, here they are longest and about one-third the height of the body. Pectoral rays 14, the first very small and short. Ventrals represented by a short, slender tubercle on either side of a small triangular space opposite the posterior base of the pectoral; pectorals small, falcate. The

height of the body at the vent is four and a-half times in the distance from the snout ; length of the head four and a-quarter to the vent ; the height of the head from the first dorsal ray is less than the length ; the diameter of the eye three and a-half in the length of the head. Greatest width of body half way between snout and vent ; about seventy plates on the lateral line to opposite the vent, an oblique line from between the seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth ray, reaches to the seventieth plate ; the plates form rounded tubercles over the angle of the operculum, and lengthen as they approach the tail, where they become oblong-linear in shape, all plates on the lateral line have a small recurved spine directed backwards and situated on the centre of each plate, these spines are largest on the caudal plates. Above the lateral line osseous scutæ form oblique bands from the interspaces of the rays, and reach half way down to the lateral line, the remainder of the scutes are roundish or somewhat hexagonal, those on the abdominal line are conical pointed and directed forwards. The length of the head, when the snout is not produced is less than the height of the body. The membrane between the dorsal rays is not attached to the back, but only at the base of each ray. There are four teeth on either side of the lower jaw, conical, not strong ; and five teeth on either side of the upper jaw. General colour of burnished silver, a blackish line along the base of the dorsal spines, down the snout and extending on to the chin ; eye large, resembling a flattened disc of quicksilver. Total length of the specimen (the end of the tail wanting) is four feet eight inches, greatest height seven inches, the head six and a-half, pectoral fin three and a-half.

This specimen was speared by Mr. Frederick Johnston, at Manly Beach, in November last, and presented to the Museum by that gentleman. I believe it is the first specimen of this rare genus that has been obtained on the New South Wales coast.

It differs from all described species in having the dorsal rays on the forehead reduced into weak, short, hair-like spines—there

is only a very short space between the detached anterior portion of the dorsal rays and the rest of the fin.

The total length of this specimen restored would be about six feet, the width about one inch, and the height seven inches without the fin. Colour uniform, of burnished silver, no markings or spots on the body, fin membranes opalescent, longest rays about a-quarter of the height of the body.

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NOTES ON SOME OF THE HABITS AND CUSTOMS OF AUSTRALIAN  
NATIVES IN QUEENSLAND.

BY DR. J. C. COX, F.L.S.

The Natives of Australia are so rapidly disappearing, owing to their altered habits and the evil influences which accompany civilization, and so little is recorded of those habits, that any authenticated facts regarding them are worthy of note; I crave no apology therefore for offering the few brief notes to this Society which I have made regarding some of the tribes to the North of Queensland.

It has been known for a considerable time that the male members of some of the Native tribes which inhabit the North-west part of Australia, and a few tribes also which inhabit that part of the Continent to the North-west of Fort Bourke have an operation performed on their genital organs when about ten or twelve years of age, the object of which it is difficult to surmise. The operation which I refer to is that of having their urethras slit up from the posterior part of the meatus at the point of the glans along the median line of the under surface of the penis as far back as the scrotum. My friend Mr. Sydney Brown was the first to call my attention to this curious custom, having observed it amongst the tribes North-west of Fort Bourke, who gather and use the narcotic plant known as *Pitchurie*; before being able to make observations for himself, he had heard of this practice, but